BOROUGH OF MONTGOMERY.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1937.

[illegible]

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

BOROUGH OF MONTGOMERY

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough, for the year 1937, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1650 (Wales).

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area:

Area (in acres)	3390
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid. 1937	836
No of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	242
Rateable Value	£3057
Sum represented by a penny rate	£12 8s. 11d.

There are no large industries carried on in the area, the district is almost wholly agricultural. There has been very little unemployment, and especially during the last six months of the year.

Vital Statistics of the year:—

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate ...	10	6	4
Illegitimate	2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 14.3

Still Births ... ... Nil.

Deaths ...	25	7	18

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated res. population...29.9.

Death Rate of Infants under one year per 1,000 live births 83

Births.—There were twelve children born alive during the year, giving a Birth Rate of 14.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with 14.9 for England and Wales. The Rate for 1936 was 15.9.

Deaths.—There were 25 deaths registered as belonging to the Borough during the year. Seven males and eighteen females, giving a Death Rate of 29.9, compared with 12.4 for England and Wales. The Rate for 1936 was 11.4.

Causes of Death—

	M.	F.	Total.
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	5	7
Heart Disease	1	5	6
Cancer	2	0	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	2	2
Circulatory Disease	0	1	1
Bronchitis	0	1	1
Influenza	0	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	1	1
Senility	0	1	1
Violence	1	0	1
Other Defined Diseases	0	1	1

Ages at Death.—Two were over 90 years, five were over 80 and eight were 70 years of age.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:—

There is no whole-time Public Health Officer employed by the Council. There is a part-time Medical Officer who holds the Diploma in Public Health and a fully qualified Sanitary Inspector. No other specialised inspectors, health visitors or special nurses are employed.

Laboratory Facilities.—No change from 1936.

Ambulance Facilities.—Two ambulances are available, one at Welshpool, and one at Newtown. For removal of infectious cases to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, the hospital sends its own ambulance.

Nursing in the Home.—There is one qualified midwife in the Borough who also does general nursing.

Hospitals.—There are no hospitals in the Borough and cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to Newtown Infirmary or the Royal Salop Infirmary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The supply during the year was sufficient for all domestic purposes. The new reservoir is in course of construction. No chemical or bacteriological examinations were carried out during the year. The remainder of the monthly samples were taken for the plumbo solvency tests and in view of the slight plumbo solvency it was decided to instal a treatment plant at the new reservoir.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No change from 1936.

Rivers and Streams.—There are none in your area likely to be polluted.

Closet Accommodation.—During the year modern Sanitary conveniences were fitted to seven premises and proper connections were made to the existing sewer.

Public Cleansing.—No alteration from 1936.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Report by F. Hunt, Sanitary Inspector.

The district has been inspected systematically and at intervals as occasion required, and where defects under the Housing and Public Health Acts were found, the usual action was taken to remedy them.

During the year, 128 premises were inspected and 137 visits were made for this purpose.

Twenty-three informal notices were served on account of defects under the Housing Acts or nuisances under the Public Health Acts. The requirements of these notices were complied with. Two Statutory notices were served and were complied with.

Complaints received—Ten.
Samples of water taken—Twenty.
Premises disinfected—Four.

Seventeen of the above samples were from the Public Supply in the Borough, and were tested as to the Plumbo Solvency action of the water.

The remaining three samples were taken from a newly sunk well at Hendomen in the Outer District.

Shops.—There are no shops in the Borough which require any action to be taken under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934. The Shops are all small ones, are well ventilated and have adequate sanitary accommodation.

Smoke Abatement.—There are no premises in the Borough likely to cause a nuisance.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are none, either public or private.

Eradication of bed bugs.—The Borough is fortunate in the fact that no bed bugs have been found in any dwellings throughout the district.

Schools.—There is one school in the Borough, the Sanitary arrangements and water supply are satisfactory.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—Sixteen factories and Workshops are registered in the Borough, and the conditions in these are satisfactory.

Home Office Form 572.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories	8	—	—
Workshops	24	—	—
Workplaces	—	—	—
Total ...	32	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—Dairies and cowhouses throughout the district have been inspected systematically and at intervals, and a good standard of cleanliness is maintained. Thirty-seven cow keepers, including six retailers of milk are registered in the Borough. Cowhouses are kept clean and

many structural improvements are being carried out. There are two producers of accredited milk and one producer of T.T. milk.

The County Council is responsible for sampling and testing for bacterial content and tubercle bacilli.

Meat and other Foods.—There are two slaughter-houses in the Borough. These are regularly inspected and conditions are satisfactory. Shops and tradesmens vehicles are frequently inspected.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ...	146	Nil	2174	489	106
Number inspected ...	85	Nil	712	350	82
All diseases except Tuberculosis—Whole carcase condemned ...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	Nil	Nil	24	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	8.2	Nil	.42	6.8	4.87
Tuberculosis Only—Whole carcase condemned ...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	7.3

NOTE.—One slaughterman in the Borough specialises in slaughtering calves and conveying the carcases to the Wolverhampton market.

There is no meat marketing scheme in force under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Bakehouses.—There are three in the Borough. These are inspected regularly and are kept clean.

Adulteration.—The County Council carries out the regulations of the various Food and Drugs Acts.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food.—The County Council carries out all the duties under this heading.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.—

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Pneumonia	8	0	2
Diphtheria	1	1	0

There was a severe Influenza epidemic during the first three months of the year and an epidemic of Measles in July. The School was closed on two occasions on account of these epidemics.

Tuberculosis.—There was one death, during the year, this occurred in a Sanatorium. One new case was notified.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
25—35.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
35—45.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

HOUSING.

During the year, two cottages were entirely reconstructed under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, and arrangements were made for a number of others to be reconditioned.

Four new houses have been built by the Council to accommodate families displaced from insanitary dwellings. A site for two houses in Kerry Street has been acquired and it is the intention of the Council to erect these as early as possible to rehouse families from condemned dwellings.

There are now only two cases of overcrowding in the Borough, and negotiations are in progress regarding the acquisition of a suitable site on which to build for re-housing these cases.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	115
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	121
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	15
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	16
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	13

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 6

3. Action under Statutary Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners ... ...Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) By Owners 2

(b) By local Authority (in default of owners) ... Nil.

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made ... ...Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ...Nil.

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ...Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ...Nil.

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a).—(i) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of year 2

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 2

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 15

(b) Number of new cases overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(c) (i) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 4

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases... 28

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

S. J. STEWART.

June, 1938.